liGriffiths M-5 (ca. 1940) 1946 AW37 Kol AW37

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Chapter XIII

THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE KOLS

433 434 The economic condition of the cultivators of the Central Provinces is not a very prosperous one. The following table is reproduced from the Census Report for 1931 and is for the average cultivator. It will be seen from the following pages that the Kols fall far below this meagre income.

Item	Normal	When crop is 25% below normal
Size of holding ..	Acres 21	
Value of gross crop outturn after deducting marketing expenses	Rupees 491	Rupees 369
Income from subsidiary sources	50	50
Total income ..	541	419
Cost of maintenances and clothing ..	214	214
Cultivating expenses ..	157	157
Rent ..	21	21
Total necessary expenses ..	392	392
Balance ..	149	27[1]

434 It is further noted that from this balance the worker must provide sums for funerals and marriages, repairs to buildings, journey costs, repayment on debt (the normal debt of the cultivator is said to be Rs. 227), interest charges, the cost of education for his children and the little luxuries such as *pan* and tobacco. These figures are worked out for a family which has an average of three surviving children. Not much can be done in normal years, to say nothing of bad years when actual deficits are expected and more money is borrowed.

464 434 As will be observed in the following pages, Kols are mostly day labourers and under village conditions the income of day labourers is very small. Usually no money is given; they are paid in kind. In villages near Katni it was found that the field labourer was paid three

1 *Census of India*, 1931, XII : I, p. 60.